



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rep. LaKeshia Myers Issues a Statement Regarding the Passage of SB230**

MADISON –The Wisconsin Senate passed SB230 which authorizes the state superintendent of public instruction to approve a teacher preparatory program if the program requires students to complete the equivalent of the student teaching required under current law. This legislation allows flexibility in teacher education candidates being able to complete their semester-long student teaching requirement.

Currently, the state superintendent may approve a teacher preparatory program only if students in the program are required to complete student teaching that consists of full days for a full semester (eighteen weeks) at a cooperating elementary or secondary school. As it is currently written, the state law does not make any exception for paraprofessionals or other non-teaching classroom-based staff to utilize their hours of employment to fulfill the student teaching requirement unless they are in unpaid status.

Rep. Myers stated, “The passage of SB 230 proves that Wisconsin is thinking proactively about meeting the needs of educational professionals; the current law was enacted at a time when our undergraduate teacher education programs were brimming with students—this is no longer the case. Overwhelmingly, the majority of today’s teacher education candidates are older individuals, many of whom are career changers with families that cannot afford to complete student teaching requirements that mandate they go unpaid for eighteen weeks. The passage of this bill by both chambers of the legislature acknowledges this evolution and will aid us in our effort to educate and certify well-qualified individuals to teach in our schools.”

SB 230 was a bipartisan effort authored by Senators Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) and Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) and Representatives LaKeshia Myers (D-Milwaukee) and Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah).

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